

News

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FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN THE PACIFIC STATES, 2000

Job-related fatal injuries in the Pacific states¹ totaled 753 in 2000 accounting for just under 13 percent of the 5,915 fatalities that occurred nationwide, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson noted that, over the year, the number of fatal work injuries in the Pacific division declined by 80, or 9.6 percent, even though overall employment in the five-state area increased in 2000. Nationally, on-the-job fatal injuries were down 139 from 1999 to 2000, a decline of 2.3 percent.

State and metropolitan area highlights

Overall, the largest number of fatal work injuries in the Pacific states occurred in California (553), which is also the state with the largest workforce in the region. Washington had 75 job-related fatalities in 2000, followed by Alaska (53), Oregon (52) and Hawaii (20). Alaska was the only Pacific state to show an increase in fatal work injuries, up 11 over the year. In the other four states, declines in job-related fatal work injuries ranged from 38 fewer deaths in California to 12 less in Hawaii. (See table 1.)

In the Pacific division, causes of fatal work-related injuries varied across the five states. As was the case nationally, highway crashes accounted for the largest percentage of on-the-job fatalities in Oregon (29 percent), Washington (27 percent), and California (24 percent). Aircraft accidents accounted for the largest share of fatal occupational injuries in Alaska (36 percent), while homicides comprised the largest percentage in Hawaii (20 percent). In the United States, highway crashes accounted for 23 percent of all fatal work injuries, homicides, 11 percent, and aircraft accidents, 5 percent. (See table 2.)

Fatal workplace injury data for 2000 are also available for six Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs) in the Pacific states; Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, Calif.; Portland-Salem, Ore.-Wash.; Sacramento-Yolo, Calif.; San Diego, Calif.; San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Calif.; and Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, Wash. (See table 3.) Workplace homicides constituted a higher

¹ The Pacific states referenced in this release correspond to the Census definition for the Pacific division and include Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

percentage of all fatal work injuries in San Francisco (20 percent) and Los Angeles (18 percent) than they did for the nation as a whole (11 percent). Conversely, highway crashes in the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas, at 19 and 16 percent, respectively, were below the national share of 23 percent. Among some of the other CMSAs, percentages equaled or were closer to the national share for highway crashes in the Sacramento and San Diego areas (both 23 percent) and the Seattle area (24 percent).

Industry and worker characteristics

The construction industry recorded the highest percentage of fatal work injuries in the nation at 20 percent. Only two states in the Pacific division had more than 15 percent of their fatalities occurring in this industry; Washington (23 percent) and California (17 percent). (See table 4.) Transportation and public utilities accounted for 16 percent of national workplace fatalities; all five Pacific states exceeded this percentage, reaching highs of 25 percent in Alaska and Hawaii. Services, third highest in fatalities nationwide, accounted for 13 percent of the total; in the Pacific division, this industry made up 18 percent of all fatalities in California, highest in the State. The agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry represented 12 percent of all fatal work injuries in the United States, a proportion exceeded in four of the five Pacific states. Manufacturing claimed 11 percent of fatal work injuries nationally, but 33 percent in Oregon. No other Pacific state exceeded the national share. Outside of private industry, the public sector (government) experienced higher percentages of worker fatalities in Hawaii (20 percent), Washington (17 percent), and Alaska (15 percent), than in the nation (10 percent).

Nationally, 67 percent of all fatal work injuries occurred among prime age workers, those 25 to 54 years old. Across the five Pacific states, the distribution of workplace fatalities in this age group ranged from 45 percent in Hawaii to 79 percent in Alaska. Among the oldest workers, those 55 and over, three states—Alaska, California and Washington—had a smaller percentage of fatalities in this age bracket than did the nation as a whole (22 percent). (See table 5.)

Men suffered work-related fatal injuries more often than their share of employment would suggest. Nationally, 92 percent of those fatally injured on the job were men. Among the five states in the Pacific, only Washington fell below the national average at 91 percent. The percentage of workers killed on the job who were of Hispanic origin in California was 31 percent, much higher than the national average of 14 percent. However, workers of Hispanic origin represented 10 percent of those employed nationally but 27 percent of those working in California. Injuries to Asian workers accounted for 40 percent of work-related fatalities in Hawaii and 8 percent of on-the-job fatalities in California, compared to just 3 percent nationally. They also made up a larger percentage of the workforce in these two states than they did for the nation as a whole.

Technical Note

Data in this release are from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program. For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

CFOI data provide the most complete count of fatal work injuries available because the program uses diverse state and federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used, circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, reports to federal and state agencies, police reports, and news reports. Multiple sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all on-the-job fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents, or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

States may identify additional fatal work injuries after data collection closeout for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to determine work relationship may subsequently be verified as work related. States have up to one year to update their initial published state counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that no legitimate case is excluded from the counts. Thus, each year's report should be considered preliminary until the next year's data are issued. Increases in the published counts based on additional information have averaged less than 100 fatalities per year or less than 1.5 percent of the total. The BLS news release issued August 17, 2000, reported a total of 6,023 fatal work injuries for 1999. Since then, an additional 31 fatal work injuries were identified (of which 11 were from California), bringing the total for 1999 to 6,054.

This is the ninth year that the fatality census has been conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The BLS fatality census is a federal/state cooperative venture in which costs are shared equally. Additional state-specific data are available from the Pacific State agencies, listed below, participating with BLS in the census program. Metropolitan area data is also available from their respective state agencies. Areas included in this release are: Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange Co., Calif. consisting of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties; Portland-Salem, Ore.-Wash. consisting of Clackamas, Columbia, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill Counties in Ore. and Clark County Wash.; Sacramento-Yolo, Calif. consisting of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties; San Diego, Calif. consisting of San Diego County; San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Calif. consisting of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma Counties; and Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, Wash. consisting of Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties.

State agencies

Telephone

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development	(907) 465-5883
California Department of Industrial Relations	(415) 703-4757
Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations	(808) 586-9001
Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services	(503) 947-7051
Washington State Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5510

CFOI includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other Federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. BLS thanks the participating states for their efforts in collecting accurate,

comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by State, 1996-2000

State	Year					1996-2000 average
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
Alaska	63	51	43	42	53	50
California	641	651	626	602	553	615
Hawaii	27	19	12	32	20	22
Oregon	85	84	72	69	52	72
Washington	128	112	113	88	75	103

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by detailed event or exposure in the United States and states in the Pacific division¹, 2000

Event ²	Fatalities					
	United States		Alaska		California	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	5,915	100	53	100	553	100
Transportation incidents	2,571	43	39	74	230	42
Highway	1,363	23	6	11	131	24
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	399	7	-	-	20	4
Aircraft	280	5	19	36	32	6
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	370	6	-	-	36	7
Water vehicle	84	1	12	23	9	2
Assaults and violent acts	929	16	-	-	112	20
Homicides	677	11	-	-	78	14
Contact with objects and equipment	1,005	17	8	15	69	12
Struck by object	570	10	5	9	39	7
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	294	5	-	-	25	5
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	123	2	-	-	4	1
Falls	734	12	-	-	72	13
Fall to lower level	659	11	-	-	63	11
Exposure to harmful substances or environment	480	8	-	-	60	11
Contact with electrical current	256	4	-	-	24	4
Fires and explosions	177	3	-	-	9	2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by detailed event or exposure in the United States and states in the Pacific division¹, 2000

Event ²	Fatalities					
	Hawaii		Oregon		Washington	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	20	100	52	100	75	100
Transportation incidents	6	30	24	46	33	44
Highway	-	-	15	29	20	27
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	-	-	7	13	4	5
Aircraft	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	3	15	-	-	5	7
Water vehicle	-	-	-	-	3	4
Assaults and violent acts	8	40	4	8	10	13
Homicides	4	20	-	-	5	7
Contact with objects and equipment	-	-	14	27	19	25
Struck by object	-	-	8	15	11	15
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	-	-	5	10	5	7
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	-	-	-	-	3	4
Falls	-	-	4	8	8	11
Fall to lower level	-	-	3	6	7	9
Exposure to harmful substances or environment	-	-	3	6	4	5
Contact with electrical current	-	-	-	-	3	4
Fires and explosions	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Pacific division includes: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

NOTE: Totals may include categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by detailed event or exposure in selected metropolitan areas¹, 2000

Event ²	Fatalities		
	Los Angeles- Riverside- Orange County, California	Portland- Salem, Oregon- Washington	Sacramento- Yolo, California
Total	245	18	26
Percent distribution:	100	100	100
Transportation incidents	35	28	42
Highway	19	-	23
Assaults and violent acts	25	-	19
Homicides	18	-	-
Contact with objects and equipment	12	33	-
Falls	14	-	23
Exposure to harmful substances or environment	11	-	-
Fires and explosions	2	-	-
Event ²	Fatalities		
	San Diego, California	San Francisco- Oakland- San Jose, California	Seattle- Tacoma- Bremerton, Washington
Total	52	77	34
Percent distribution:	100	100	100
Transportation incidents	39	31	41
Highway	23	16	24
Assaults and violent acts	15	25	27
Homicides	-	20	-
Contact with objects and equipment	17	12	24
Falls	19	17	-
Exposure to harmful substances or environment	10	13	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	-

¹ Includes data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas as defined by OMB Bulletin No. 99-04. See Technical Note for definitions of metropolitan areas.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

NOTE: Totals may include categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by industry in the United States and states in the Pacific division¹, 2000

Industry ²	Fatalities					
	United States		Alaska		California	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	5,915	100	53	100	553	100
Private industry	5,344	90	45	85	500	90
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing ...	720	12	10	19	80	14
Mining	156	3	-	-	4	1
Construction	1,154	20	4	8	95	17
Manufacturing	668	11	4	8	41	7
Transportation and public utilities ..	957	16	13	25	95	17
Wholesale trade	230	4	-	-	17	3
Retail trade	594	10	3	6	60	11
Finance, insurance, and real estate ..	79	1	-	-	8	1
Services	768	13	6	11	100	18
Other or nonclassifiable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government³	571	10	8	15	53	10

Industry ²	Fatalities					
	Hawaii		Oregon		Washington	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	20	100	52	100	75	100
Private industry	16	80	51	98	62	83
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing ...	-	-	9	17	10	13
Mining	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction	-	-	5	10	17	23
Manufacturing	-	-	17	33	7	9
Transportation and public utilities ..	5	25	9	17	14	19
Wholesale trade	-	-	-	-	6	8
Retail trade	3	15	4	8	5	7
Finance, insurance, and real estate ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services	3	15	5	10	-	-
Other or nonclassifiable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government³	4	20	-	-	13	17

¹ Pacific division includes: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

² Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition.

³ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals may include categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries by selected characteristics in the United States and states in the Pacific division¹, 2000

Worker characteristics	Fatalities					
	United States		Alaska		California	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	5,915	100	53	100	553	100
Employee status						
Wage and salary workers	4,731	80	40	75	445	80
Self-employed ²	1,184	20	13	25	108	20
Sex						
Men	5,467	92	52	98	520	94
Women	448	8	-	-	33	6
Age						
Under 20 years	200	3	-	-	15	3
20 to 24 years	444	8	3	6	47	8
25 to 34 years	1,161	20	11	21	127	23
35 to 44 years	1,473	25	15	28	152	27
45 to 54 years	1,313	22	16	30	109	20
55 to 64 years	830	14	6	11	66	12
65 years and over	488	8	-	-	36	7
Race						
White	4,240	72	45	85	300	54
Black or African American	574	10	-	-	24	4
Hispanic or Latino	815	14	-	-	172	31
American Indian or Alaskan Native	33	1	5	9	4	1
Asian	171	3	-	-	46	8
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	14	-	-	-	4	1
Other Races or Not Reported	68	1	-	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries by selected characteristics in the United States and states in the Pacific division¹, 2000 (Continued)

Worker characteristics	Fatalities					
	Hawaii		Oregon		Washington	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	20	100	52	100	75	100
Employee status						
Wage and salary workers	18	90	51	98	66	88
Self-employed ²	-	-	-	-	9	12
Sex						
Men	19	95	50	96	68	91
Women	-	-	-	-	7	9
Age						
Under 20 years	-	-	-	-	4	5
20 to 24 years	-	-	6	12	10	13
25 to 34 years	3	15	7	13	15	20
35 to 44 years	-	-	12	23	11	15
45 to 54 years	6	30	13	25	25	33
55 to 64 years	6	30	10	19	5	7
65 years and over	-	-	3	6	5	7
Race						
White	7	35	42	81	54	72
Black or African American	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic or Latino	-	-	6	12	13	17
American Indian or Alaskan Native	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian	8	40	-	-	6	8
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	20	-	-	-	-
Other Races or Not Reported	-	-	3	6	-	-

¹ Pacific division includes: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

² Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

NOTE: Totals may include categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.